



MONTEREY NEWS

May 2002

VOLUME XXXII • Number 5



The Town

Grand Celebration for Retirees

Do you miss sharing a joke with Walter Parks at the Post Office? Spying Gige O'Connell presiding over a meeting at Town Hall? Eyeing Don Amstead zooming along in a snowplow? Watching Harry Gustafson decide how much your house is worth? Then please join everyone for a celebration at The Seven Stones on May 31 (this is NOT Memorial Day weekend) at 6:00 p.m. to honor these wonderful Monterey retirees. Tickets for this festive (yet casual) occasion are only \$25 (half price for children) for a complete four-course gourmet meal, music, and eloquent and lively tributes. Cash bar, good friends, and a joyful time are sure to be had by all. Call Town Hall, 528-1443, to get your tickets now so you don't miss this historic event.

Important Issues to Be Considered at Town Meeting

Come one, come all to the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 4, 2002, at 9:30 a.m. (which will be preceded by a Special Town Meeting at 9:00 a.m.) at the Monterey Firehouse. It is an important event in the yearly round of the Town. In two to three hours you can make a difference in how things work in Monterey. As Select Board Member Peter Brown so aptly put it, "This is not only a matter of civic pride and responsibility, it is the chance to participate in the most basic form of democracy at its core." At this year's Town Meeting, in addition to voting for Town officers and the budget, some notable special articles include the following points: Town Office addition; a new fire truck; matching grant for Lake

Buel improvement; high-tech; and finally, accurate, re-mapping of the tax lots.

Architect David Bixby will be at the meeting to discuss finishing the Town Hall renovation project. Now that the Federally mandated handicapped access has been finished, the Town can proceed to provide additional space. See the architectural drawings up close at Town Hall prior to the Town Meeting. As reported in the April issue of the *News*, the specifications for a new fire truck are also available at the Town Hall.

Muriel Lazzarini of the Select Board summed it up, "Show respect for both democracy and your community. This is your best response to September 11th." Think globally, act locally. Be there. Town Meeting, May 4, 9:00 a.m.

Town Government Positions Available

Recent resignations by Ron McMahon and Denise Andrus leave two vacancies on the Park Commission. The third seat is up for grabs between Jim Edelman and Leroy Thorpe in the

only contested office on the election slate. The Select Board can fill vacant positions by appointment for the remainder of the year until the next Town Election. These are not the only seats that will need to be filled in the coming months. As Peter Brown said, "We are continually looking for people from town who are interested in filling positions. There is always a



Glynis Oliver

The Easter Bunny made a surprise visit to the Easter egg hunt on the Library lawn and had kind words for the children and high praise for the coffee club organizers.

need to fill a spot for such committees as Conservation, the Cultural Council, or even an ad hoc committee."

The Select Board is most appreciative for the support and effort all members of Town Boards and committees have put forth during their terms. Each year at this time it is good to remember how many people it takes to make our community work. These are primarily volunteers, and every moment of their time given to the Town is a valuable gift. Thanks to everyone. If you would like to be involved in Monterey government, contact the Select Board. They need you and want you.

Lake Garfield Boat Ramp

The Select Board met in April with two representatives of the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife before an overflow crowd of interested members of the community and some area sportsmen to discuss the long-standing issues concerning public access to Lake Garfield for small boats. Recent inquiries to the state from area sportsmen, spearheaded by local fisherman Rodney Palmer, prompted the meeting.

The issues involved date from the early 1970s when the state replaced the old Lake Garfield dam and rerouted and reconstructed Tyringham Road by the lake. At that time the state asked the Town to make provisions for public access to the lake, which, like all bodies of water over a certain size in the state, is considered a Great Pond, and hence is the property of the state and open to use by all state residents. Public access to such bodies of water is overseen by the Equal Access Board of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, which is how the representatives from that department came to be at the April Select Board meeting. At the time of the dam and road reconstruction, the state asked the Town to build a boat ramp at the current location and to make a public beach on the north side of Brewer

Pond. The beach proved from the start to be unworkable on Brewer Pond and was soon relocated by people who voted with their feet to where it is now. At some point in the 1980s the Town agreed in Town Meeting to have the state build a small boat ramp at the current location by the town beach; some time after its construction the Select Board adopted regulations limiting the ramp's use during the busy summer season at the beach. That is more or less where the matter stood until the April meeting.

At the meeting, improving and making the existing ramp more accessible to boaters was discussed. Citizen and lake devotee Fran Amidon was especially concerned about how the boat traffic would affect youngsters who use Lake Garfield, pointing out that someone needs to look out for the little ones. Parking for the vehicles and trailers involved is also a concern.

No decision has been made concerning a new boat ramp. A proposal is expected soon from Fish and Wildlife that will address improving boaters' access to the lake and recommendations for a new boat ramp, as well as how to protect the beach and beach-goers from petroleum pollution and the boats themselves. When the proposal is received, the Select Board will hold a public hearing on the issue.

Memorial Day

The traditional Memorial Day activities will be held on Monday, May 27.

It will be both a somber and moving day for our community, as we honor those who gave their lives for our country. The most recent loss is that of Ian Rodgers, who perished while on active duty with the Coast Guard in Alaska earlier this year. It was only a year ago that we bid him farewell and watched him toss a remembrance wreath into the waters of the Konkapot.

The commemorations will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park, and will continue with the parade and school band at 1:00 p.m. Please note that the focus of the parade will move to Town Hall this year, so a spot on the Meetinghouse steps may keep you a bit far away from the memorials. Follow the parade up the hill to the Firehouse where hot dogs and soda will be available. See more about the Memorial Day observance on page 3 of this issue.

If you'd like to help out, contact Linda Thorpe at 528-2164.

— Chandler Crawford, with Will Marsh

Town Reporter Needed

Help! The *Monterey News* is in desperate need of a town news reporter. Here's your chance to have your regular byline in the town's leading newspaper. If you are interested, contact Will Marsh, 528-4347; e-mail windrose@bcn.net.

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

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Memorial Day Observances

In the time since September 11th we have all had time to reflect and become aware of just how fragile our world is.

Please join us on Monday, May 27, at 11:00 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park on Route 23 for a time of reflection on all our past conflicts. We will have a brief service to honor all veterans, and remember those who have died in service to our country.

The Color Guard will be made up of local veterans, and all are invited to participate. Even if you do not have a uniform we would welcome you to join the line of vets who stand to be honored by those of us who attend. We will start promptly at 11:00 a.m., so please plan on arriving shortly before. We look forward to seeing you there.

At 1:00 p.m. the Annual Parade will start from the intersection of Route 23 and Sandisfield Road. There will be a slightly different arrangement at our stops in the center of town because we will be using the new flagpole that was installed in front of the Town Hall. Wreaths will still be placed at the Library Honor Roll, the bridge, and the Honor Roll next to the new flagpole.

We do request that for reasons of safety, people stand back, and keep children at a reasonable distance from the Firing Squad.

Also we want to remind people that our town does have a bylaw stating that owners are required to keep their dogs under control at all times. In the past there have been some difficulties with loose

Monterey Veterans Memorial Park

Have you noticed the new flag and light at the Town Hall? Our Veterans Memorial Committee met immediately after the terrorist attack on our country on the infamous September 11, 2001. We, as everyone else, wished to do something immediately to show our concern for all those who lost their lives on that day. Many ideas were put on the table and we

dogs not staying with their owners and frightening small children as well as having conflicts with other dogs that are leashed. Please use good judgment when deciding whether or not to bring your dog to the festivities.

After the raising of the flag, the parade will proceed up the hill to the fire station for refreshments for all, compliments of the Town and served by Gould Farm, as well as entertainment by John Root, compliments of the Monterey Cultural Council.

An addition to the parade this year will be two bagpipers and a drummer, compliments of the Fire Company. The haunting sounds of the bagpipes can only add to the solemnity of the day and remind us of why we are gathered together.

Anyone interest in joining our parade should call Linda Thorpe at 528-2164 to be added to the lineup.

Both ceremonies will be held rain or shine.

— Linda Thorpe

all finally agreed that it would be appropriate for our committee to pay for installation of a new flag, pole, and light at the modernized Town Hall. Arnie Hayes was able to purchase and erect a flag, pole, and light. Within a two-week period the flag was proudly waving in front of our Town Hall twenty-four hours a day.

We are also in the process of completing the development of the Veterans Memorial Park. This will consist of planting five seven-foot tall shrubs in an arc in the back of the park; setting some attractive benches along the front side of the shrubs; purchasing two more appropriate benches; raising the level of the grass mounds around the steles to meet the bottom of the polished impala granite; and a general cleaning up of the area. No major changes in the natural appearance or contours will be made.

We do need your immediate financial help to accomplish this and complete this project. Please mail your generous tax-deductible contribution to:

Monterey Veterans Memorial
Committee

Treasurer, Town of Monterey
Monterey, MA 01245

Oh, don't forget to attend our Memorial Day Service in honor of all veterans on Memorial Day at 11:00 a.m. at the Monterey Veterans Memorial Park.

Thanks so much!

— Dean Amidon, Chairman,
Monterey Veterans Memorial Comm.

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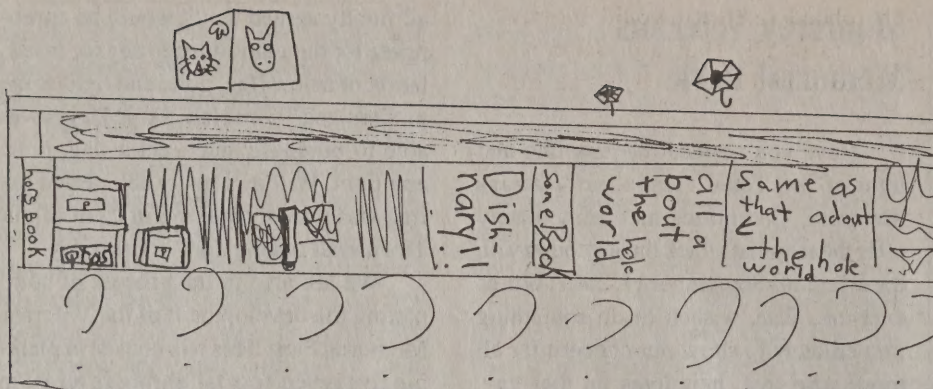
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"The Library," by Samantha Candee, Grade 3-4, New Marlborough School

Library News

Bookmobile Service Cut Back by State Budget Cuts

The bookmobile service of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System based at the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield is scheduled to be cancelled at the end of the fiscal year due to state budget cuts. The bookmobile from Pittsfield has served the Monterey Library and more than forty other libraries for many years, providing patrons of small libraries with access to books, videos, and books on tape that would not otherwise be available.

The Pittsfield bookmobile collection will be made part of the inventory of the Hatfield headquarters of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System. Bookmobile service to Monterey and other Berkshire County towns is supposed to continue, but it is expected that the frequency of visits, which had been cut back last year because of budget cuts,

will be cut back even more, and that fewer titles will be available.

The Monterey Library will be affected by this cutback in service. Videos make up from 25 to 30 percent of our circulation, with audio books making up another 10 to 12 percent; our titles in both of these areas come mainly from the bookmobile service. Until two years ago the bookmobile came every six weeks; in the current fiscal year it has been coming once every eleven weeks, but we had been able to compensate somewhat by taking more titles. We don't know yet what the new schedule will be, but the bookmobile visits will almost certainly be less frequent, a problem that will be compounded if fewer titles are available.

If you are concerned about this cutback in library services, it would be good to let your state senator and representative know how you feel. In the past the state government has received so few complaints when it has cut library services that legislators feel they can do it without its being noticed. To make your

voice heard, contact State Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr., telephone (413) 442-6810; 74 North St., Suite 604, Pittsfield, MA 01201; e-mail anucifor@senate.state.ma.us, and Rep. Christopher Hodgkins, telephone (413) 243-0289; Room 156, State House, Boston, MA 01230; e-mail repchristopherhodgkins@house.state.ma.us.

Thanks for Donations

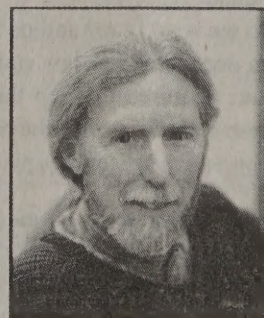
Thank you to all the patrons and friends who have given donations to the library over the years!

Your gifts have enabled us to enhance the library with new window blinds, which are allowing us to have much better light. Some special bequests, including a large sum given in memory of William Mielke, have made it possible for us to place a bench on the front lawn. We hope you enjoy it.

Help Wanted

We are looking for someone to assist in the library on Saturday mornings (9:30 a.m.-noon) during July and August. This will be a paid position. Anyone interested should contact Anne Makuc (528-3795).

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Lake Garfield Assoc. News

Plans for LakeFest 2002 are moving along rapidly. At a recent meeting of the Lake Garfield Association (LGA) Steering Committee, the date was firmed up for August 17, with a rain date of August 24. The poster design for LakeFest 2002 was selected, and it will make a spectacular addition to the series started last year which features the beauty of Lake Garfield and its environs. The ordinary business of the Association such as fund-raising, the tasks of the committees, how to recruit additional active members of the committees, and similar topics were also covered.

One of the most exciting parts of the meeting was a discussion of a proposed relationship with the Berkshire Hatchery Foundation. This organization supports the work of the Fish Hatchery on River Road in assisting people to understand aquaculture. There are nature trails, ten fish "tanks," and various equipment to breed and help a variety of fish to grow, including brown trout, rainbow trout, and Atlantic salmon. The hatchery is open to the public, and the volunteers, many of whom are members of the Berkshire Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, make a special effort to interest young children.

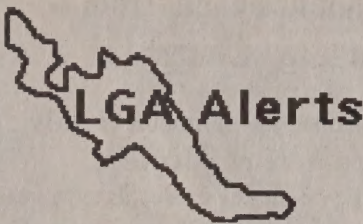
As part of its commitment to Lake Garfield and the larger community, LGA has always believed that working with other community-based organizations

with related interests would improve the lot of us all. Thus a decision was made to support monetarily the Fish Hatchery's efforts to hire a person for the summer to assist in the management of the hatchery and provide education for visitors.

Further evidence of the close working relationship that has been developing is that the volunteers at the Fish Hatchery are considering a number of possible events to make LakeFest 2002 even better. Under discussion are a casting contest in Brewer Pond, an information table about fishing and fly casting at the beach, and, possibly, a children's fishing derby at the hatchery, all on the day of LakeFest. If anyone is interested in these events, we would love additional support. Please call 528-2516. Also check the LGA web site, www.lakegarfield.org, for updates on LakeFest 2002.

The Steering Committee also finalized the times of the Association's general meetings during this summer as June 15, July 13, and August 10 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the firehouse. The volunteers at the Fish Hatchery have indicated that they would be willing to take any Association members on specially guided tours of the hatchery following those meetings, so please let us know of any such interest via e-mail or the phone number above.

— Len Simon



- LakeFest 2002—Save the Date
Saturday, August 17
(rain date August 24)
- LGA General Meetings
9-11 a.m. at the firehouse
June 15, July 13, August 10
Everyone in Monterey invited.

Cemetery Notice

All winter decorations need to be removed by May 1 for spring cleanup.

We ask that so-called "grave goods" be kept to a minimum for the sake of maintenance and mowing. Should they interfere, they may be removed at the discretion of the Cemetery Commission.

All are welcome to enjoy the peace and beauty of our cemeteries from dawn until dusk, including dogs, but we do ask that you please clean up after your dog should the need arise. It can be very disheartening for a family to visit a loved one's grave only to find that a dog has been there first. (Not to mention what happens when the mower comes through.)

Please call Linda Thorpe at 528-2164 if you have any questions regarding our cemeteries.

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Announcements from Monterey Church

"I'd come to church if only there were childcare"

If you have ever said this to yourself, please be in touch with the church office at (413) 528-5850 or e-mail montucc@bcn.net. We in the church are eager to welcome all who want to worship with us and to provide the services to make this possible. If there is enough interest, we will hire someone from the community to provide childcare and solicit donations of a safe playpen, toys, and games. So stay tuned . . .

Summer Concert Series

Please be on the lookout for posters announcing our summer concert series, opening with **Vikki True** on May 5 at 2:30 p.m. **Bhavani** will perform on June 9; **Linda Worster** will perform on July 14; **The Beartown Mountain Ramblers: a Bluegrass Blast** will take place on August 18; and **Lui Collins** will close the series on September 15. All concerts are at 2:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door. For more information, log on to the church website at www.montereychurch.org.

The Four Faces of Jesus According to Scripture

The Monterey Church will be offering a series of workshops focusing on Jesus as seen through the eyes of Gospel

Community Dinner May 8th

Approximately fifty people attended the April Community Dinner. We are all becoming very proficient at organizing each monthly event. Angie Sherrard of Hupi Road hosted this one. The delicious potluck meal was very well balanced between salads, covered dishes, and desserts. For our entertainment, David Dashiell, former curator of the Bidwell House, gave an interesting slide show about sanitation from ancient times to the present. He had photos of well-built masonry "facilities" still standing around Berkshire County today, as well as ancient Greek and Roman communal facilities. He explained that archeologists have learned much from digging the remains of old privies. He also told us that the term "toilet" derives from the French word for a small room where one powdered his or her wig. The smallness of the room was to avoid having the powder blown all over the place.

The decorating committee had some unusual thematic table centerpieces. The

writers Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Our first meeting will be Sunday, May 19, at 11:30 a.m. in the downstairs fellowship hall. Bring a sandwich; tea and coffee will be available. We will meet monthly through the summer. Come for one meeting or the full series. The dates are May 19, June 16, July 21 and August 25. All are welcome.

seasonal flowers were pussy willows and forsythia. What will the May flowers be? Well, please come and find out!

The next dinner will be on Wednesday, May 8, at 6 p.m. in the meetinghouse social rooms. Please bring a salad, covered dish, bread, etc., but no desserts. Why you may ask? We will be entertained by the Monterey Center School kindergartners upstairs in the sanctuary following our dinner. Afterward, we will all go back downstairs for ice cream and cake.

Everyone is welcome. Please bring your own plates and silverware. We will provide hot and cold beverages. We are usually finished at 8 p.m. See you there!

— Steve Pullen

Our Lady of the Hills Begins Summer Schedule

The Roman Catholic Chapel of Our Lady of the Hills will begin its summer schedule on Saturday, May 25. Masses will be held on Saturdays at 7 p.m.

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From the Fish Hatchery Porch . . .

FISH: "any of various cold-blooded, aquatic, vertebrates with gills for breathing, usually with fins, and being a member of any of three classes: Agnatha (jawless, boneless fish), Chondrichthyes (cartilaginous fish such as sharks and rays), and Osteichthyes (bony fish)."

On April 1 the fish must have chuckled at the black boots that descended in the swirling pools. "Catch us? Ha," as they slithered to the sides. But soon they realized the net was no joke. One by one, glistening and dripping trout surrendered to be weighed.

Keith Wiolda and Leroy Thorpe corralled and netted the fish, much like a slow motion Western (minus the lasso). Michael Felster, George Emmons, and T. J. Sheridan recorded each weight. The trout weighed in at from one to four plus pounds. Shelby (the dog) offered wags of encouragement, brown eyes hopefully pleading for the impossible snack. Luckily, Leroy had biscuits, distracting her from sniffing these fragrant fish fins.

Each rainbow trout was checked for its readiness to spawn. Rainbow trout are able to spawn both spring and fall. These fish can be recognized by a pinkish band and spotted body. The brown and brook trout only reproduce in the autumn. Brown trout have yellow-brown skin and larger spots than the rainbow. When brown and brook trout mate with one another, a tiger trout is produced. Noticed for its stripes, this breed is usually unable to reproduce.

When the fish are matured, eggs are stripped from the females and fertilized with milt from the males. These eggs are



George Emmons

Keith, Leroy, T. J., Michael, and Melissa weighing the fish

then placed in tray incubators, vertically stacked, like dresser drawers. Water constantly flows over the eggs, providing moisture and oxygen. Unfertilized or "dead" eggs turn white and are removed. The newly hatched fish, called sac fry, still have a yolk sac attached to their body, which provides nutrients for about the first month. Soon this new generation of trout is freely swimming and swarming toward the hand tossing fish pellets.

Rain drizzles at dawn, daffodils yawn in yellow, and the trout are spawning. It must be spring!

— M. Hamilton

Monterey Afterschool Program Survey

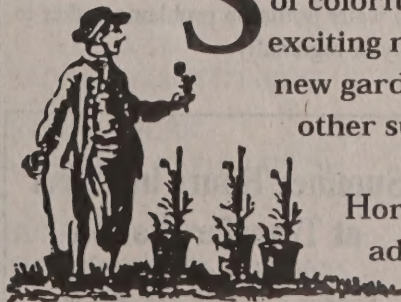
A committee of parents is trying to organize an afterschool care program at New Marlborough Central School beginning fall 2002. We are taking a survey of those interested, so that we may seek funding. If you have a child attending the Monterey School or N.M.C.S. and you are interested in afterschool care or if you want more information please call Amy Lynn 229-3419 or Jessica Redman 229-3140.

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday 7-9 p.m.
Tuesday 9:30 a.m.-noon
Wednesday 3-5 p.m.
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Glynis Oliver

Hannah Mulvey displays her Easter finery at the coffee club's Easter egg hunt.

Oil Paint and Waste Motor Oil Collections

Residents of seventeen South Berkshire communities—Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, and West Stockbridge—can bring used motor oil and oil-based paints to any of three collections this spring. Great Barrington, Otis, and Lenox are hosting these collection events in order to make safe disposal of hazardous products more convenient for the residents of the towns. This program is sponsored by the seventeen towns, which form the

South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative. The collection dates are as follows:

Saturday, May 11,
9 a.m. to Noon, Great Barrington Recycling Center, 601 Stockbridge Road (Route 7), across from Monument Mountain High School.

Thursday, May 23,
3–6 p.m., Otis Transfer Station, 538 W. Center Road.

Saturday, June 1,
9 a.m. to Noon, Lenox DPW, 275 Main Street, Route 7A, across from Mass. Highway Dept.

Residents can bring unwanted oil paint, stains, paint thinners, and turpentine as well as used motor oil to any of these events. To participate, please preregister with CET at 800-238-1221 or (413) 445-4556.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection:

On June 8, a comprehensive Household Hazardous Waste Collection will take place in Lee. At this collection, any product with a label that says “caution, toxic, poison, flammable” will be accepted. These items should not be discarded in the trash. Improper disposal can cause air and water pollution problems, either locally or regionally.

Summer Hours in Effect at Transfer Station

Sunday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday 8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

The kinds of products that will be accepted on June 8 include paint thinners, solvents, pesticides, drain and oven cleaners, button batteries, and rubber cement.

Residents of the following sixteen towns may participate: Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, and West Stockbridge. Preregistration is required by calling the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) at (413) 445-4556 or 800-238-1221 or e-mailing jamiec@cetonline.org.

Refer to <http://www.cetonline.org/Events/events.htm> page for more information about acceptable material and additional collection opportunities.

Latex paint will not be collected at any of these events. Dried latex paint can be disposed of with regular trash. Kitty litter or newspaper can be used to absorb the excess liquid until it is dry.

— Jamie Cahillane
Waste Management Specialist, (CET)



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Black Fly Day in Tolland Set for June 8

If you are familiar with the hilltowns in the spring, you know the misery of the black fly season. If you're a tourist passing through, it is likely to be very quickly. On Saturday, June 8, 2002, we will celebrate the end of those pesky varmints with an all day celebration, our seventh Annual Black Fly Day, on the Green in Tolland, Massachusetts.

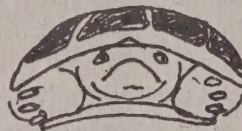
This is when Tolland along with it's neighboring towns of Granville and Sandisfield welcome you to a day of family fun. Each year has seen this event grow in terms of attendance and the variety of entertainment, exhibitors, food, and events. Black Fly Day is "Fun for Funds," and profits will be distributed to the Granville-Tolland Citizens Scholarship Committee, Granville-Tolland Lions Club, and Sandisfield Historical Society.

Some of the highlights of the day:

- 1 mile walk/run at 9:00 a.m.
- 5 mile race at 9:30 a.m.
- Giant Parade at 11:00 a.m., presided over by our Black Fly Queen.
- An afternoon of live music, hayrides, children's games and prizes, country cook out, giant raffle, silent auction
- The popular "Fly Market", a great combination of Crafters, Gardeners, Farm

Free Junk Mail Reduction Kits Available

In celebration of Earth Day and to reduce unwanted mail, the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District is pleased to announce the availability of free Junk Mail Reduction Kits. These easy-to-use kits demonstrate how to limit access to one's name and address in order to reduce the amount of unsolicited mail received each year. The kits outline simple steps to restrict the number of unwanted catalogs, credit card solicitations, and other bulk mailings. It also includes pre-addressed postcards that can be sent to many of the mailing list companies that sell names and addresses to direct mail companies. The Towns of Alford, Becket,



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For more information, contact Susan Voudren, Chairwoman, Black Fly Day Committee, (413) 258-4794. For road race information, contact Mike Scialo, (413) 258-0254, e-mail address Michael.Scialo@cs.com.

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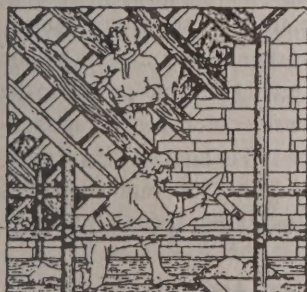
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Senator Says

The Environmental Bond Bill

The Senate recently passed a major piece of environmental legislation that contains specific provisions for western Massachusetts. Known officially as "An Act Providing for the Preservation and Improvement of the Environmental Assets of the Commonwealth" (S 2312), the Environmental Bond Bill would, over the next several years, address a range of pressing matters concerning our environment, including the Ashuwillticook Trail, improvements to state forests and parks, and a public lands proposal known as the Common Ground Initiative.

If approved by the House and signed by the Governor, this bill would provide \$993 million for important state environmental programs such as farmland preservation (the Agricultural Preservation Program), watershed protection, and pollution prevention.

During debate, the Senate adopted several amendments that I offered related to the Ashuwillticook Trail and the Common Ground Initiative. As many of you know, the Ashuwillticook Trail provides year-round recreational opportunities for people of all ages. It also connects communities, reduces congestion, and promotes energy conservation. One amendment that I sponsored would provide \$1.4 million for the southern extension of the Ashuwillticook Trail. Funding would be used for the acquisition, design and construction of the trail south of the Berkshire Mall Road heading into Pittsfield. Bringing the trail south would provide unique environmental and economic opportunities to the City of Pittsfield. The paved trail currently runs north from the Lanesborough/Pittsfield line through Cheshire. Construction of the northern extension, that will reach downtown Adams, is expected to be completed by fall 2003.

All four of the amendments I offered related to the Common Ground Initiative were included in the legislation. Last fall, I introduced the Common Ground Initiative, which aims to prevent illegal dumping in state forests and parks. The initiative has received support from the Department of Environmental Management

(DEM), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW), the Massachusetts Environmental Police, the State Police, and local officials.

Included in the bond bill is a provision that will allow DEM to increase the monitoring and patrolling of our state parks and forests to prevent illegal dumping. The bill will also increase the fine for dumping in state parks. Currently, the fine for illegal dumping in state forests and parks is \$3,000 for the first offense and \$10,000 for subsequent offenses. The bill will increase the fines for dumping in state forests and parks to \$5,500 for the first offense and \$15,000 for additional offenses. The section also mandates that permanent signs indicating the penalties for violating the law against dumping be placed on all DEM lands. The bill also earmarks \$500,000 for enforcement of the law that makes dumping illegal.

Additionally, the Environmental Bond Bill includes my amendment that will create a commission to study the implementation of a program to allow no-cost waste disposal on one or two selected days. While it's a poor excuse, the higher costs of waste disposal have apparently led some citizens to illegally dump on our state lands. An "Amnesty Day" will encourage disposal of waste at proper facilities.

The implementation of the Environmental Bond Bill coincides with the Senate's goal of preserving our natural resources and promoting economic growth, while at the same time maintaining fiscal responsibility. We are fortunate in Massachusetts, especially in the western part of the state, to have a wealth of environmental assets that make the region exceedingly attractive to tourists. Employers consistently report that the

commonwealth's abundance of recreational opportunities and natural beauty is a major reason employees choose to live and work here. This bond bill strengthens our commitment to the environment, and at the same time does not compromise our ability to address the current budget problems we are facing.

The Environmental Bond Bill enjoys a broad base of support from more than 150 cities, towns, nonprofits groups, sportsman's associations, and community organizations. Locally, I have met with members from the Berkshire County League of Sportsmen, the Berkshire Natural Resources Council, the Nature Conservancy (Berkshire Chapter), the Sheffield Land Trust, and many other citizens. These individuals and groups recognize that environmental education, land conservation, and historic preservation are critical to the commonwealth's long-term health and prosperity. Bob Durand, Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, has also lent valuable support to this bill.

The Environmental Bond Bill would be part of the capital budget, which in the form of bonds gives the Governor the authority to borrow money to meet the capital needs of the commonwealth. The state government sells bonds or notes on the market to fund capital projects that we could not otherwise afford on a "pay as you go" basis. Funding for this bond bill does not come out of the operating budget and will not put a further strain on funding for education and social programs.

The legislation was passed by the Senate on April 11, and has moved to the House for consideration. I encourage supporters of the bill to contact their Representatives and the Governor about this important opportunity for our future.

— State Sen. Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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Back by the Pond

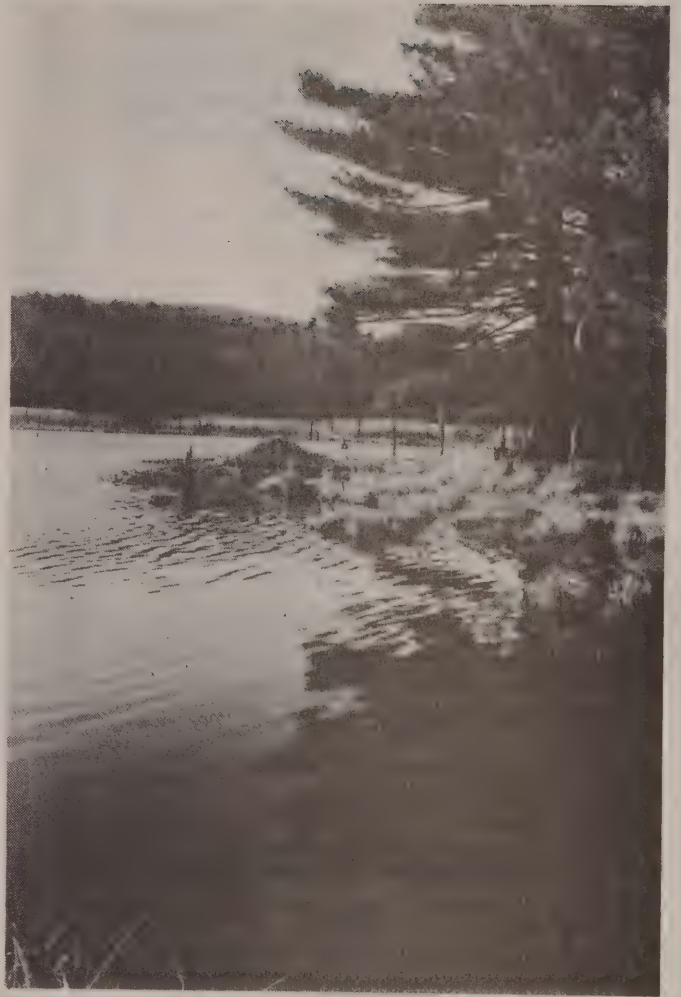
We have a wonderful house on an old stagecoach road. It is a white colonial and was built in 1811 according to the town historical records. The architecture of the house makes us question this date in that it is of the Greek Revival style and was probably erected or modified in the 1830s. We have thirty acres with the house and have the obligatory gardens of shrubs, flowers, herbs, and vegetables. We receive great pleasure from the beauty and the wonderful food the land lets us have.

Behind the garden was a beautiful 150-year-old weathered barn that despite our best efforts collapsed two years ago during a heavy snow. Beyond the barn lies a large field that is home to bees, ground birds, butterflies, and a nesting turkey that occasionally defends her eggs from a large silver coyote. Still further across the field, you come upon a path that leads through an overgrown Christmas tree farm where the deer like to nestle down on the fallen pine needles, then slopes down past an old dumping ground with antique bottles, washboards, and teakettles to a wide open clearing. The clearing is primarily a large pond that has been home for many years to families of beavers. The pond, surrounded by tall pines, silver driftwood, light green swamp grass and shimmering with dark cool still water, is an unexpected open air cathedral that would make the most committed atheist a person of God. A gospel choir of tree frogs, anonymous birds, and the percussion of a pheasant beating the ground with his wings in a mating dance all contrast the visual still-

ness and amplify the sensation that no human had ever been here.

This year, we really did not have a winter, just bleak gray days that seemed to run into each other. It was almost as if the war on terrorism was also affecting our weather as well as our lives in other ways. One wondered if the world was coming to an end. Then the days got longer and the walks to the pond became more frequent. The beavers, at least two, maybe three families, were working away, beginning at dusk, searching for that perfect tree or branch to nibble on and to shore up their homes, which were scattered across the pond's center.

One day recently we turned the bend to the pond and discovered nestled on top of one of the largest beaver lodges a pair of Canadian geese. How ingenious of the geese to make use of this nest in the very middle of the pond, safe from the dangers waiting on land, to build their own.



Glynis Oliver

We brought them homemade whole grain bread, which the male, always swimming on guard, ate first. After a long while, the female would flop off the top of the beaver lodge with three large flaps and splash to a landing, grabbing a few of the last morsels. The male would always stop eating and become protective. Then came the beavers, curiously swimming past the geese to see what was going on. The geese paid them no mind, and the beavers acted very comfortable with their new upstairs tenants. It was almost as if they were all one family. Soon a pair of mallards joined the neighborhood; they were always more timid, foraging on the far side in the swamp grass.

After a while it struck me, and I am happy to report, that the world this spring is alive and well with plenty of harmony, back where it all began.

Back on the pond.

— B. Hirsch

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The Midnight Gardener

*Listen, with the deep night sky
dusted in whispers of light —
it pauses,
to sigh around the moon.
This same lunar glow
glistens upon
the garden bed —
smiling across
frosted evening leaves
Forgetting, you had known love
when the gentle poetry
of snowdrops
shyly beckoned spring
To only seek
blue orchids
shall veil
the rare allure
of patient gardeners
who extol heaven
when dreams,
cascading to delight —
awaken
emerald breath
unearthed
from human toil
In this World
speckled with chaos,
meeting by chance
(Or perhaps design) . . .
who is weed
and what will flower?
The capricious spade
must now decide
upon this
moonlit
midnight
hour.*

— M. Hamilton

Butterfly Tray

*The tearing off of love
Is not like the tearing off of a bill stub
Off the part you keep
From the part you throw away*

*It's not an even perforation
It never is, never will be
Blood is not usually shed
But it might as well be*

*Words are too bacterial
Not virulent, just ambivalent
And in my mind they accrete
Into thoughts and verses*

*Yes, I go to church on this
Up to the altar rail
To think and ask
My head on the rail listening*

*I hear the answer coming
I think it's an answer
A hum within the rail
Past the vanishing point*

*I rest my head on the rail
To understand the past
To pin down a thought
I think now, 'butterfly'*

*I think of a serving tray
My father brought back from Rio
When he was in the Navy
A tray of butterflies under glass*

*All the butterflies of South America
Arranged so beautifully
The insect body removed
A painting of just wings*

*How did the end of love
Become a butterfly tray
From the tearing off of wings
To a body with no wings*

— Peter Shepley

Back to the Land

wizard or witch
those same few flurries
you spoke of
appeared
moments after you left
in between my window
and another body blowing up
in someone's last supper
tanks converging on the homeless
while a comfortable
dumb white world watches
the courageous hurling
their poverty
their desperation

these are the days
we look, like children,
for painted eggs
hiding under a swelled bud of color
hidden by a hint of green
Not in some blood stained stairway
to nowhere
or worse: paradise

when is the right time
to plant peas and parsley
prune figs and olives
in your garden
which is now theirs
or bulldozed
or burnt?
how do you hoe with no hands?
I said,
How Do You Hoe With No Hands?

Pity
the cafes, bars and discos
of the chosen
have lost their gay atmosphere
that the fresh spring air
has gone stale with fear
that those carefree lovers
with pockets full of shekels
are now shackled with dread

what harvest shall we hope for
from this season of sowing?
what color
the flower of hatred?
not really fragrance
this night
is stilled in stench

— R. Zukowski, 4/02

Underneath

Beneath the leaves I should have raked last fall
(that then had rested under foot-deep snow),
new shoots of faintest green, soon inches tall.
How do perennials survive? I do not know.
In back, my raking frees half-hidden ferns;
they spring up, avidly, through sodden leaves.
Is it the sun or air for which they yearn?
I do know this – a thoughtful gardener loves
to dig around, to see what's to be had
beneath the surface soil. You have to be
prepared to find the murky and the odd-
roots and rot, and creeping things. You may
not flinch from facing the mysterious
forces there—intrinsic and imperious.

— Edwin Schur

Back to the World

Why me?	Why not them?
Growing old	Politicians need wars
Why me?	Why not them?
Good buddies dead	War is obscene
Why Them?	Why us?
Randomly shot	Mind can't forget
Why Them?	Why us?
Politicians need heroes	

— Steve Pullen



From the Meetinghouse

"Sheep!" One of my seventh graders casts this aspersion. "Everyone's sheep!"

Sixty-two years old, he is being held against his will. But he has never had much willpower so no one, including himself, seems to mind. No one is sure what he is in for. All anyone knows is that he is sick. So he lies in bed most of the day, watching TV. When he does go shuffling down the hall, he comes back to his room with an armload of apple juice cartons, unopened, and he swears that the people on whose trays they had been told him he could take them. He is storing them up, in case he ever gets out. They would go well with a bottle of spirit.

That's what they call it in his circle of friends, a bottle of spirit.

Sometimes he shuffles down the hall in the other direction, toward the window overlooking the neighborhood park. Like the neighborhood itself, the park is small and slovenly. He watches out for his circle of friends, and when he sees them he waves. If they happen to be looking up at the hospital windows, they wave back. They all gather here during daylight hours and then scatter to shelters at night. They all have their favorite shelters, and they probably think that his now is the best of all.

But he misses the spirit. He has drunk nearly a bottle of it a day for forty years. It helps quiet his mind. Without it, he is all too aware of the president of the United States and the president of Russia up there in the helicopter watching him, talking about him, making decisions all about him. And they never ask him what he thinks. They never ask him if this is all right with him. They just conspire and make their deals. No one else knows, and,

when he tells others, they seem not to care. And this drives him craziest of all.

It is during times like these when he misses his spirit most.

Three months pass, and all anyone can figure is that he is sick with so many things and that being back on the streets could kill him.

And then he escapes.

And one day, while walking through the park, following in his herd, cutting a swerving course, he notices a nurse in the fourth-floor window looking down at him. And he looks up and waves with the hand that is not clasping the spirit.

Sheep are simple and unaggressive by nature.

"Sheep!" one of my seventh graders accuses all but herself. "Everyone's sheep!"

Nineteen years old, she once heard someone say, "You can never be too rich or too thin." And now, running along the Charles River, as she does every day for miles, her favorite thing to do is to chase her morning shadow, long and lean, down the sidewalk, promising herself that one day she will catch it.

This is her hope.

She heads out first thing in running shoes and a windbreaker unless the weather is warm. She runs in a circle around the river, across the JFK Bridge, southeast along Storrow Drive, down through the Back Bay, her shadow chasing her, then across the Harvard Bridge, northwest along Memorial Drive, the sun rising behind her, her long, thin shadow leading the way as she promises herself that one day she will catch it.

This is her hope.

Sometimes she runs with friends. The competition is good for her. But usually she runs alone, with her focus on that tall thin shadow that is always eluding her, that shadow, thinner than anyone could ever be. And she vows to herself that one day she will catch it.

This is her hope.

Sheep require supervision, for they become lost easily, and once lost, they are defenseless.

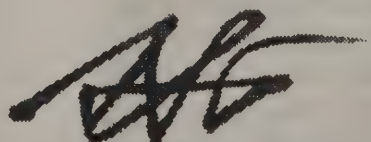
"Sheep!" is her indictment against humanity, all but her. "Everyone's sheep!"

Twenty-eight years old, she admits that, every time it starts, it starts this way: she stares into their eyes which flash full of promise, as if all the stars are out. They look at her seriously, at a low burn, and their hands, no matter what, start off shy and with such a gentle touch that the only thing she can do is to take in that tenderness and let herself be swept away.

And she thinks to herself, I could love this one.

She admits that afterward, always afterward, she curls up like a shrimp, something deep inside her ruined, and slowly she fills up with an overwhelming sadness. She does not try to explain it, everything filling up finally and absolutely with death. And she rolls over with death stretched out alongside her and she doesn't try to say anything to him because it's obviously her own fault.

But she had thought, after so many attempts, that she could have loved this one.


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And he doesn't even look at her, whoever he is, whoever they all are. They just stare at the ceiling. Or, if they do look at her, their gaze is altogether different. They turn casually and get a mild distracted surprise, as if they had thought she was gone. Their blank look tells her that the girl they had known is not there anymore. She seems to have disappeared, all the while thinking, I thought I could have loved this one.¹

Sheep are notable for their submissiveness and their unshakable trust in their shepherd

"Sheep!" My young student is disgusted by it. But, deep down, beneath her judging, there is the fear that she is one too. "Everyone's sheep!"

He is eighteen years old, and his family's way of life has always been service. So when he enlists in the Marine Corps he wants to be assigned to a reconnaissance mission, the most dangerous duty in Vietnam, the surest, most sacrificing way to serve.

Semper fidelis, proclaims the motto of the Marine Corps, always faithful.

He is assigned to the second most dangerous, in the infantry, Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, six weeks at a time on the front lines in the Special Landing Force, a ten-month tour of duty stationed just south of the DMZ.

Half way through his tour, ordnance issues a new gun, replacing the M-14 with the Colt M-16, nicknamed Jack the Giant Killer.

Rifles are life in Vietnam, and the front lines are where you are closest to death. It takes a lot for a grunt to give up his old rifle and to adjust to a new one. But the Corps is giving this "Jack" a lot of

fanfare. Though it is cute and plastic, it is also more effective, so they say, even as it is half as heavy. Now they can hump twice the ammunition, four hundred rounds on each operation. Of course, that will come later. For now all that ordnance has available to issue are three magazines per grunt, three rounds of twenty per soldier. But not one round will be wasted, not with Jack.

Semper fidelis, always faithful.

Now the battalion is at Khe Sanh and he, now serving as he has always longed to serve, is holding his M-16 as if it were a member of his body, as much a part of him as his own right hand, as trusted a part of him as his own eyes or ears.

And now there is fire from the enemy, unseen, and this will be named by history the Battle at Hill 881.

Half the new rifles fail. They get jammed because of a design flaw, and all over Khe Sanh the scenario is the same, dead Marines with cleaning rods stuck down the barrel to punch out the cartridge cases that refused to extract.

Soldiers complain up the chain of command. Our man complains up the chain of command. But word comes down that these new rifles do work. Word comes down that these grunts, too lazy to clean their own guns, are giving a good weapon a bad name. Word comes down that word does not go up.

Semper fidelis, always faithful.

A month goes by. More Marines die. Then Colt sends a representative to Vietnam, who explains that the problem could have been easily solved, with chrome plating in the bores and chambers. Colt had offered to repair the flaw for \$1.25 per gun before they were issued, but the Secretary of Defense had declared this not cost effective.

Another month goes by. More Marines die. The man we began with is not among them, but he remembers what someone once told him, that if you stared at the sun for too long, you would go blind. He begins, from time to time, to stare at the sun. He has seen enough.

Then ordnance issues a part that even the simplest grunt can use to repair his rifle that has never been in need of repair.

Semper fidelis, always faithful.

"Sheep! Everyone's sheep," my young prophet reminds us, and to her I would if I could say, "You're right. It's true. People are sheep. So are you. So I pray that this might also be true, that the Lord might be your shepherd, so that you shall not want. He will make you lie down in green pastures. He will lead you beside still waters. He will restore your soul, just as he has restored mine, after so many journeys toward so many dead ends. Now he leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. So even though we all walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we need fear no evil, for our shepherd is with us; his rod and staff can be a comfort to us. He anoints our heads with oil. Our cups overflow. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all our days, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever, the only place where it is safe to be a sheep."

—Elizabeth Goodman

1. Based on Susan Minot's story, "Lust," *Lust and Other Stories*. New York: Washington Square Press, 1989.

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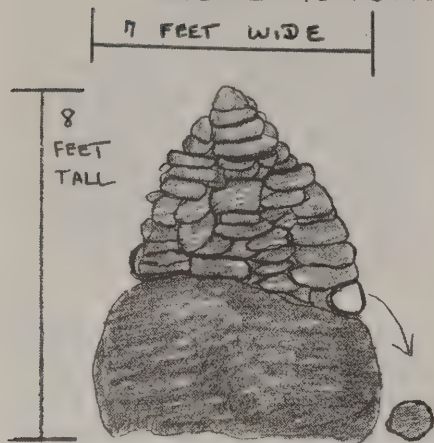


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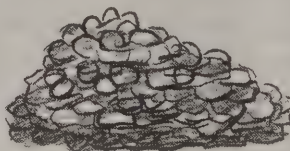
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BIDWELL HOUSE
(ONE STONE HAS FALLEN)



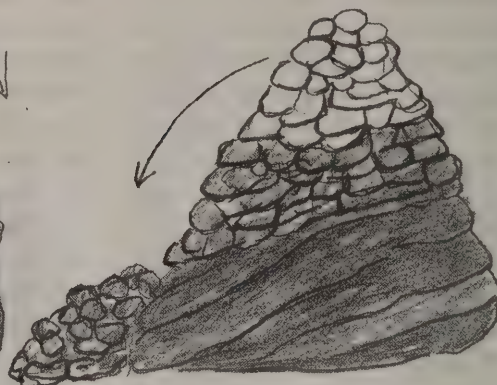
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NEAREST MARKER TO CROWK
ROAD CAIRN ONE OF FIVE
LESSER MARKERS, EACH
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D.B. Commons

Monuments of the Past

Earth Day came once again on Monday, April 22, an annual ritual observed perhaps by taking a good walk. Even if you are not cleaning up the roadside of trash, the day can be made meaningful by observing the natural sights and sounds of Mother Earth awakening from a long winter's nap. The dormant buds of the foliage have not as yet obscured the bare bones of the landscape, which remind us that the Berkshire Hills and Appalachian Mountains were formed like geological tombstones by the retreating glacier of the last ice age. And, if you should happen to get off the country roads and beaten paths, there are still a few ancient cairns to be found.

Of course the stone piles are not popping up fresh like fiddlehead ferns, but have been there, perhaps, for between three or four hundred years. How do we

know this? To find out, just go down to the Monterey Library and get a book entitled *Manitou: The Sacred Landscape of New England's Native Civilization*. On page 177, you will see a picture of and read about a historic stone cairn, on the public trail halfway around the south base of Monument Mountain, a Native

American monument from which the mountain itself gets its name. What else do we know about it?

According to the Indian Chief Konkapot, as related to the missionary John Sergeant, this cairn was raised over the grave of an important sachem, when the Mahicans first came to that part of

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the country. That was before his time, perhaps in the early 1600s. He understood that by custom, each brave passing by was expected, out of respect, to add one more stone to the pile. Over the years the pile grew until it became a territorial landmark, and then a treaty marker. When the Mahicans were defeated by the Mohawks, they were subsequently confined to all the land in every direction "within one day's walk of said pile."

This historic monument is only a few miles as the crow flies from our own local cairns. Many in this area have almost dated themselves, because the huge stone slabs that serve as a base for the cone of smaller ritualistic stones have slowly over a long period of time sunk far into the earth, spilling the contents of the cone in a heap to one side, where they remain to this very day. How did primitive people move such heavy capstones over the graves of the dead? Once again, going back to the public library, there are colonial journals that give a very plausible account. The library in this case is in Katonah, New York, a town named after a famous Native American chief of the same name. Although miles away, Chief Katonah was a contemporary of Konkapot, and they both left their historical mark on their own culture by selling huge tracts of land for a pittance.

Historical documents of these transactions still exist, as well as an account of how Katonah was buried. It relates how his braves moved a huge boulder over his grave, using sections of tree trunks as rollers and stout poles as fulcrums for leverage. It is now a well-marked site, and I have been there. Nearby is a slightly smaller boulder, the marker of his squaw Cantitoe. And to one side is an even lesser marker over the grave of his son.

When our own favorite indigenous son, Chief Konkapot, died in about 1760, he was first given an Indian burial, but then was moved to a place of civilized honor near the grave of his friend John Sergeant in the prestigious Stockbridge Cemetery. His headstone is not unlike others there of colonial settlers who were on the social register, but the inscription on the stone reveals that he shares his grave with other Indians who died between 1734 and 1900.

Chief Konkapot's connection to Sergeant in the minds of historians proves again that "it is not what you know, but who you know" (and both were also contemporaries of Adonijah Bidwell, who had a parish, parsonage, and meeting-house of his own, just over the hills, along a route where the Boston-Albany Post Road would supercede the old Native American trail). However, Konkapot's relatives remain in a more obscure burial

ground on the outskirts of Stockbridge. About one-quarter of a mile west along Route 102, there is a clearly visible cairn on a large mound to the left. Well-meaning historical societies have added a tall obelisk in the center, possibly to make it look more authentic. But more meaningful is a large flat stone, embedded in the cairn, and inscribed with this epitaph:

THE ANCIENT BURIAL PLACE
OF THE
STOCKBRIDGE INDIANS
THE FRIENDS OF OUR FATHERS
1734

Our local cairns at the Bidwell House, on Cronk Road, Silver Brook Road, and on Rod Palmer's hill, are often in a state of disrepair. But it doesn't seem right to touch them, even with good intentions. There are no epitaphs or inscriptions, if that means anything. But somehow, in the silence of a primeval presence, we might glean a hint of their message, especially on April 22—that those who might be buried here, were truly the children of Mother Earth.

— George Emmons



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Green-up and Tree Shapes

After a long winter nap, the local primary producers have given themselves a shake and gotten back to business: the production of carbohydrates and oxygen. Of course, to your individual sugar maple, nettle, or pokeweed, it does not feel like "production." They do not feel things the way we do. They do not know from carbohydrates and oxygen.

Maybe you are a big long root in the ground. Your top parts turned brown and fell down in some other era. Then along comes May and you give a shudder. Next thing you know, shoots are rising, sap is rising, little root hairs are sucking up water and nutrients and sending them for miles until they deliver their messages to the perfect receptors. Leaves of all shapes and sizes burst on the scene, from the lawns to the ridge-tops. What once graced our hills and roadsides as complex sepia tracery is suddenly obscured by the tidal wave of green. No time to waste; make sugar while the sun shines.

Some people won't miss the bare twigs against the sky. I remember a frustrating conversation I once had with my high school biology teacher, a contentious man who liked to wake us up with loud noises and outrageous ideas. He was such a devil's advocate that we never knew where he stood, if anywhere. This was a one-on-one conversation, just him and me.

"I have always hated winter," said he. "The trees are so ugly. They look

exactly as if they were dead—they might as well be dead. What's the difference? They are gray or black or brown. I like green. Green is pretty." (This from a guy who had just said in class that he was color-blind. We were studying genetics and he was regaling us with accounts of his having run away from home at sixteen, hopped freights across the country to Alaska, worked as a switchman until they found out he couldn't tell red from green.)

I can't remember what I said back, about the trees. It was probably some lame dumb thing. But in our home, right near the fireplace, we had a painting. It was made by a friend of our family, a tall slim woman with her long blond hair up in a bun and a pretty face. She was quiet and worked in the Art Department. This painting showed a New England general store, with a porch, and in the foreground a tall slim (quiet) tree. I always thought it was an elm. It was winter, or at least a time of no leaves, and I used to study that painting in awe because every single twig was there. The artist had not shied away from the task. In fact, every single clapboard on the general store was there, too. Can you imagine?

Remember early drawings of trees, your own? We learned to make them like lollipops, big green balls on black or brown sticks. As we got a little more

sophisticated, we made the stick into a "Y," but if we drew a winter scene, we tended to make it open farm country: no trees. Only God can draw a tree in winter—and a few artists like our friend. (That's what I should have said to my bio teacher. Rats.)

This coming of the green is always a surprise to me. I am amazed at how quickly it comes on, how much it changes my world. Pretty as it may be, I don't like it because it is a change. In only a few months I have gotten attached to the tracery and the sepia. I could go on like this for a long time, noticing the different looks of the elms and sugar maples, the ash trees and the oaks. I feel appreciative of the grace and movement in the big trunks and strong branches, the incomprehensible resolution where tree meets sky. As change is loss, so do I wish there were some way I could keep the complicated structure in my view. I am not ready, I think, for the green wave to turn my twiggy horizons to lollipops.

My uncle Chesley Watkins was a North Carolina man. He died young when I was four, so mostly my memories of him are family stories and fine quotes. They tell me he called this time of year "green-up." In the winter the trees make me think of our tall slim painter friend, and then comes spring and Chesley Watkins. I see him as forever young and energetic, just

Peter S. Vallianos
Attorney at Law
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I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

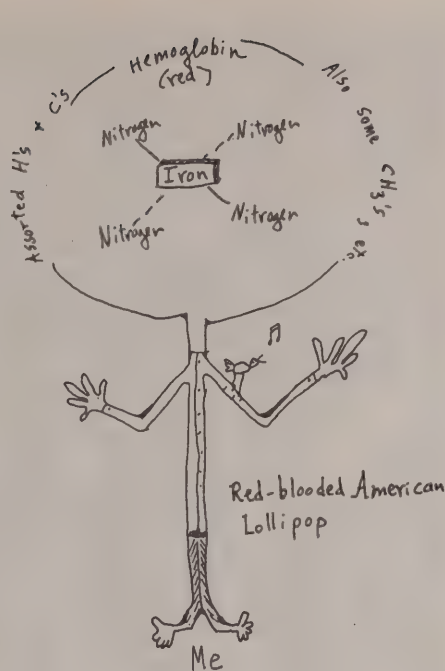
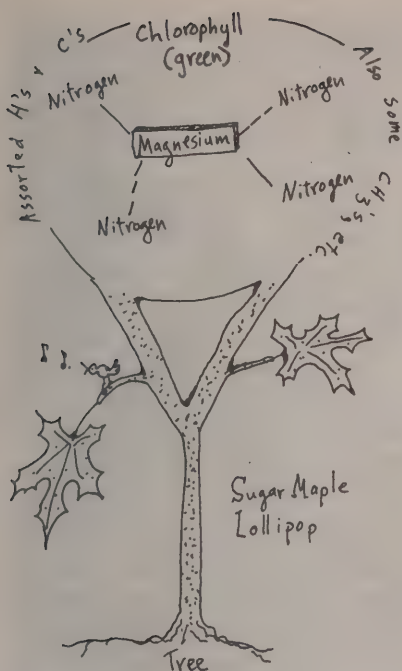


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like the bold shoots of May. This is green-up, chlorophyll galore.

The Bible says, "All flesh is grass," which is a great ecological truth. This is about primary production, the first step in the food chain, and it is all about chlorophyll. Chlorophyll is the green in green-up. It is a pigment found in the green leaves of plants (and a few other places) where it resides in a cell structure called a chloroplast. One cell of a leaf may have 40-50 chloroplasts, which can work out to 500,000 per square millimeter. The little teeny chloroplasts can even tip this way and that, independently of the leaf they are in, so as to be oriented properly to the sun (or grow lights, if they are part of a science project).

In the leaf, in the chloroplast, this is what happens. Carbon dioxide meets water in the presence of light energy. The enzyme systems associated with chlorophyll kick in a reaction that produces glucose and oxygen. The plant uses glucose, a carbohydrate, for its continued growth and reproduction. The oxygen is released into the atmosphere. We get to breathe the oxygen, and at some point on the food chain, we also eat the glucose.

There will be no quiz on all this biology, but here are two tidbits for your personal pleasure. As animals, we can only envy a green plant for its ability to manufacture food, which it accomplishes

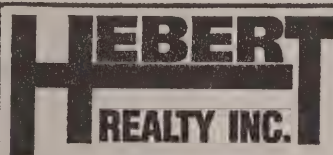
using magic chlorophyll. But our own red blood cells contain a molecule that is so similar to chlorophyll you can hardly call it coincidence. This is hemoglobin. The major difference is that at the center or heart of the chlorophyll molecule there is an atom of magnesium, whereas hemoglobin is built around a molecule of iron. In both molecules the ring around the metal (iron, magnesium) is a nitrogen-containing porphyrin ring, with an attached "phytol chain" containing carbon and hydrogen. Hemoglobin is just about

like chlorophyll, only it is red instead of green!

And here is the other wild item for today: there is a bona fide animal, a type of marine slug called a nudibranch, which grazes on green algae, just as our garden slugs graze on lettuce. The chloroplasts in the algae are swallowed whole (they are quite small, so this is easy), and they migrate to the slug's respiratory chamber where they lodge in the cells of its lining. When the animal is in a sunny place, these chloroplasts get down to the business of photosynthesis, just as if they still worked for a plant. Right there inside the breathing chamber of the animal, they produce oxygen at a rate greater than the slug needs for breathing. There is oxygen left over! This is sort of like having a perpetually recharging Aqua-Lung, or like collecting solar power at home and turning your electric meter backwards to rack up a credit. At the end of the day you get a check from Mass Electric.

I guess if a little marine slug can get on board with photosynthesis I can get over myself about the coming of the green. It's only for a few frantic months of production, after all, and then we'll go back to our delicate quiet time, when those of us not actually hibernating can count clapboards again and meditate on twigs.

— Bonner J. McAllester



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The Thread of the Story

First Quilts, Latest Quilts, Part 2

Pam Johnson brought her "First Quilt, Latest Quilt" to the Berkshire Quilt Guild meeting last February, and agreed to share her work in the Newsletter as well.

Pam's first quilt was one she began soon after moving from cosmopolitan London to the wilds of New Hampshire. Her quilt is a neutral and pale-orange twelve-block traditional sampler she made in a quilting class; it was intended to be one of a pair of twin-bed quilts, but the other was never made.

Her presence in the class didn't stem from a burning desire to do handwork, however. Once transplanted to this new and unfamiliar hemisphere, Pam decided she would take advantage of the local adult education program as a way to meet people. The semester was already under-way, but quilting was one of the options still open. She shrugged, registered for the class, and found she loves the art, particularly the hand quilting.

Her current quilt is a paper-pieced floral (pictured), composed primarily of pastel green, pink, and peach florals and

Pam Johnson



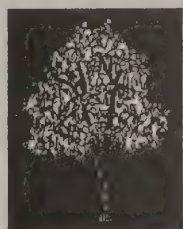
batiks. There are about forty different fabrics in the quilt, though, including some dabs of dramatic color for excitement and contrast. The paper-piecing technique she used allowed her to create particularly sharp points, a real piecing coup.

Happily, her current flower quilt provides plenty of opportunity to indulge in her favorite part of the process, hand quilting. She outlined all the leaves in the

background fabric to give a rich texture against which to showcase the flowers.

The quilt was created for Pam's dearest friend, also English and a gardener. Its completion coincided with the end of her friend's chemotherapy treatment and symbolizes for both of them a particularly poignant new beginning this spring.

— MaryKate Jordan



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A Better Location for Boat Ramp?

To the Editor,

As a renter in and a longtime friend of Monterey, I am writing in reference to an article in the *Berkshire Eagle* dated April 14 with the headline "Public access to Monterey lake should improve."

I do not understand why we are considering installing a permanent boat ramp in the beach area rather than on land that the town owns just north of the beach. The town beach has to be one of the most beautiful and most used public areas in the whole town. And few would argue that the beach has an abundance of room presently, even without considering future needs. The danger of motorboats going out of control so close to swimmers and the oil slicks that they create are additional reasons why beach-goers should protest this decision.

The town owns the entire strip of open land that we view from the beach area. Town officials should survey the land before making a decision of this magnitude, and consider other sites for the boat ramp. I believe this is their responsibility to all of us who treasure this town resource.

— Joseph Finkle, Monterey

Remembering Loul McIntosh

Marie Louise "Loul" McIntosh died on Monday, April 22, at her home at Gould Farm.

Born in Dudelange, Luxembourg, on March 5, 1926, daughter of Jean and Margrit Wagner Schuler, she attended schools there until her education was interrupted by the Nazi occupation. She and her parents were deported to Nazi work camps in Germany and Czechoslovakia. She and her mother escaped from camps and made their way back home on the eve of the American liberation of Luxembourg.

Correction to *Eagle* Quote on Monterey Fire Truck

To the Editor:

I want to alert citizens of Monterey to an incorrect quotation attributed to me in the April 26 *Berkshire Eagle*. I was quoted as saying that the newer of the Monterey Fire Department's two trucks has not been paid off. I did not say that. What I said was that the truck "has just been paid off." It was paid off last year.

— Barbara Swann, Monterey

After the war, she received a scholarship to attend Brown University, where she received a bachelor's degree in English literature in 1948. She returned to Europe and did graduate work in international relations at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques.

She lived in New York City from 1951 to 1973 and was instrumental in starting the Lincoln Center Library. She also volunteered at the American Museum of Natural History and studied music at Juilliard.

In 1973 she moved to Gould Farm, where she worked as a house parent, work leader, and in the development of office. She wrote close to four hundred essays, most of which were published in the Gould Farm newsletter, the "Farm Yarn." A book of her selected essays and poems will be published posthumously by her daughters.

Mrs. McIntosh enjoyed the natural sciences, gardening, music, botany, geology, mycology, hiking, stargazing, and fishing. She was an amateur expert in particle physics and cosmology.

She leaves three daughters, Frances McIntosh of Berkeley, California; Margrit McIntosh of Tucson, Arizona; and Anne McIntosh Roche of Lenox Dale, and a grandson.

Memorial donations may be made to Gould Farm or to Amnesty International, both in care of Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240.

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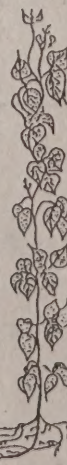
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Personal Notes

Happy Birthday to you! **Cora Jay Baker** on the 3rd, **Douglas Brown** on the 6th, **Eoin Higgins** on the 8th, **Tarsi Dunlop** on the 9th, **Judah Piepho** and **Zachary Mielke** on the 17th, **Deirdre Higgins**, **Tess Dunlop**, and **Isaiah Schulze** on the 22nd, **Chris Goldfinger** on the 26th, **Alexandra Newman** on the 29th and **Mary Makuc** on the 31st.

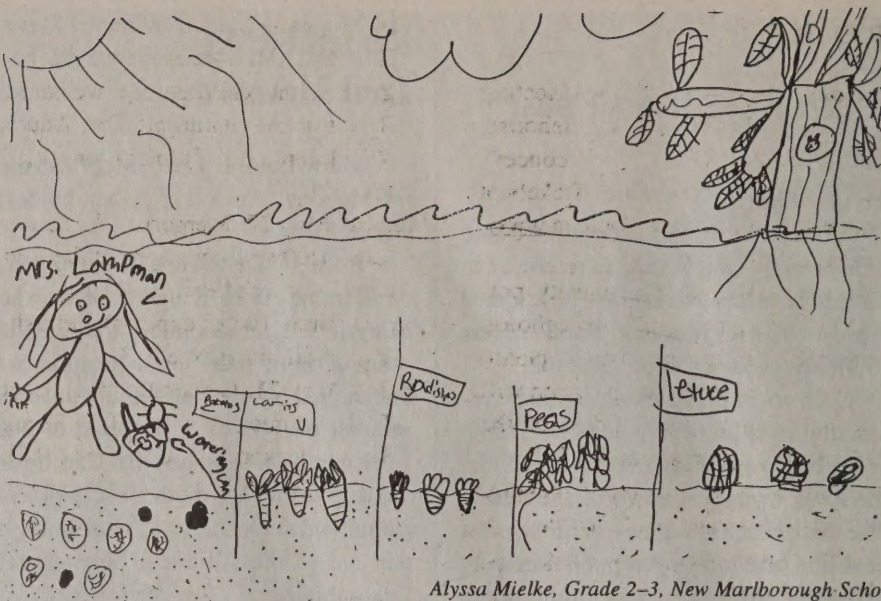
Happy Anniversary wishes to **Arnold and Kay Pratt** on the 6th, **Bill and Jeanne Zad** on the 7th, **Ken and Erica Pratt** on the 8th, **Alf and Lena Pedersen** on the 22nd, and **Nancy and David Brady** on the 27th.

Congratulations to **Chris and Tara (Mielke) Johnson** on the birth of their son **Gavin William Johnson** on April 13th. Proud grandparents are **Charles and Debra Mielke** of Blue Hill Rd. I should mention that there are also three very happy aunts—**Erica, Alyssa, and Emma**.

Got time? If so, on May 17 and 18 at 7 p.m. and on May 19 at 2 p.m. you have the opportunity to see the Mt. Everett production of "The Music Man, Jr." It promises to be another outstanding show by the fifth- to eighth-grade players. Of course there are several of Monterey's veteran performers in the production—reason enough to take in a show!

Graduation time is coming. If you have a graduate you wish to boast about, please let me know. That is what this column is for! Thanks.

— Deborah Mielke



Alyssa Mielke, Grade 2-3, New Marlborough School

Contributors

We are most grateful to the following people for their recent contributions. Your support keeps us going.

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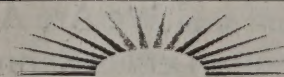
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Calendar

Saturday May 4: Annual Town Meeting and Town election, 9 a.m., Firehouse.

Sunday, May 5: Vikki True in concert, 2:30 p.m., Meetinghouse. Tickets at door. Information available at www.montereychurch.org.

Wednesday, May 8: Community potluck dinner, 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. Everyone invited, please come. The after-dinner program will be provided by the children of the Monterey kindergarten. See p. 6.

Thursday, May 9: Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Town Hall, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Friday, May 10: Food Co-op order distribution and pickup, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Church basement.

Sunday, May 19: Workshop on Jesus as presented by Gospel writers, 11:30 a.m., Church basement. See p. 6.

Saturday, May 25: Square and contra dancing, 8:30-11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music

by Mountain Laurel, calling by Steve Howland. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults \$6, children \$3. Information (413) 528-9385.

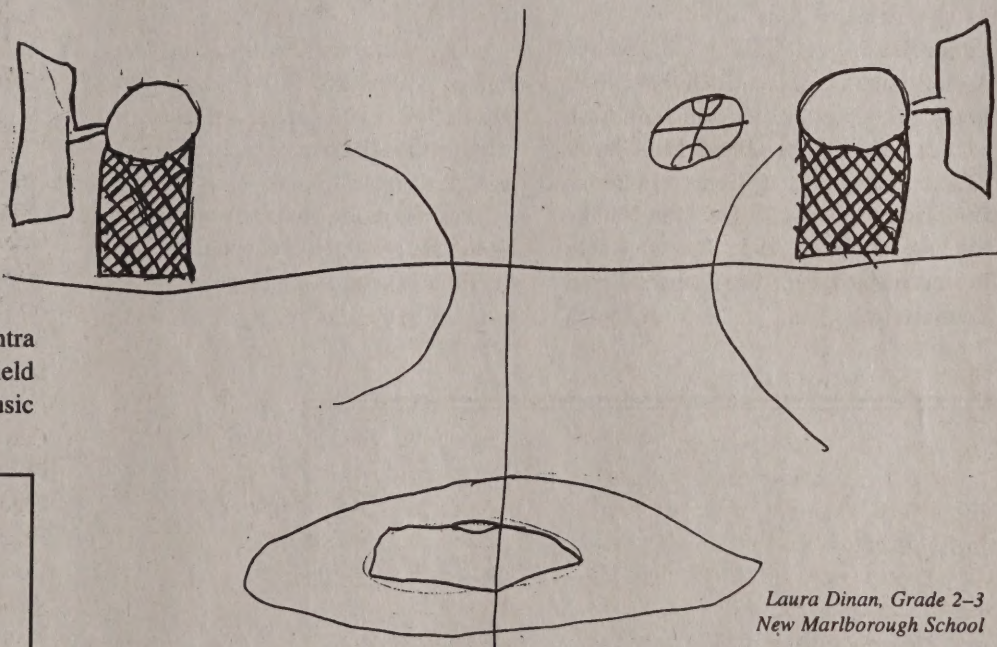
Monday May 27: Memorial Day activities: 11:00 a.m. ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Park, 1:00 p.m. Annual Parade (with bagpipes). Refreshments following. See p. 3.

Friday, May 31: Celebration for recent Town retirees, 6 p.m., The Seven Stones. Tickets \$25. Call Town Hall, 528-1443. See p. 1.

The Observer

March 26-April 25

High temp. (4/18)	90°
Low temp. (4/7)	19°
Avg. high temp.	58.7°
Avg. low temp.	34.3°
Avg. temp.	46.5°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	3.61"
Snowfall	2"
Precipitation occurred on 22 days.	



Laura Dinan, Grade 2-3
New Marlborough School



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Contributions by local artists this month: Samantha Candee, p. 4; Laura Dinan, p. 23; George Emmons, p. 16; Bonner McAllester, p. 19; Alyssa Mielke, p. 22; Glynis Oliver, p. 9.

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